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BY ROBERT YOUNG

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 — Mrs. Eleanor Lansing Dulles, the granddaughter, niece, and sister of three American secretaries of state, put away her own diplomat's briefcase the other day and retired from government service after a career of 26 years.

It was only natural that 20 of Mrs. Dulles' 26 years with the federal government were in the state department. Her maternal grandfather, Gen. John Watson Foster, was secretary of state under President Benjamin Harrison. An uncle, Robert Lansing, was secretary of state in the Wilson administration. And, of course, her older brother was the late John Foster Dulles, secretary of state in the Eisenhower administration. Another older brother is Allen W. Dulles, who retired recently as director of the Central Intelligence agency.

Mrs. Dulles, 66, is an economist by formal education and an author who has written several books on economics and government. Her academic attainments include a bachelor's degree from Bryn Mawr college, study at the London School of Economics and the University of Paris, and master's and doctor's degrees from Radcliffe college.

MR. DULLES WAS BORN in Watertown, N. Y., the daughter of a Presbyterian minister. She remembers her grandfather and uncle as hard working secretaries of state, but says their official duties were relatively simple and relaxed compared with the job of today's secretary. She recalls the leisurely days when a secretary of state—or any other high ranking government official—customarily reached his office about 10 a. m. and was home in time for 5 o'clock tea.

Mrs. Dulles married Dr. David S. Blondheim, a noted philologist, in 1932. At her husband's suggestion and insistence, she kept her maiden name for professional use. Dr. Blondheim died two years after their marriage, before the birth of their second child, David. They also had a daughter, Ann.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Dulles continued her work as a lecturer at Bryn Mawr and a research associate at the University of Pennsylvania. She entered the federal government in 1936 as chief of the finance division of the Social Security board. She went to the state department in 1942 as an economic officer. Her first diplomatic assignment overseas came in 1945 at the end of World War II when she was sent to Vienna as a financial attache. When she retired last month, she was special assistant to the director of the German affairs office.

FOR MRS. DULLES, "retirement" will be only a technicality. The morning after she left the state department, she boarded a plane for Latin America and a month-long study tour of six countries. She is collecting material for lectures and articles and already has begun writing a book on what she sees as the "inevitable growth" of international organizations such as the United Nations. She has been signed for a nation-wide lecture tour. She also plans to work as an economic consultant.

Among Mrs. Dulles' favorite memories of the last two decades is a German newspaper photograph of her seated next to Arnold Toynbee, the British historian. The picture caption identified her as "Young wife."

Other personal highlights are newspaper clippings telling of the days of the Nazi regime, government that Mrs. Dulles directed, and of her stay in the Communist sector of Berlin.

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Mrs. Dulles